

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. J. RES. 89

Posthumously proclaiming Andrei Dmitrievich Sakharov to be an honorary citizen of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 24, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. FRANK) introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Posthumously proclaiming Andrei Dmitrievich Sakharov to be an honorary citizen of the United States.

Whereas the United States on rare occasions confers honorary citizenship on individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to this country or to humankind throughout the world;

Whereas honorary citizenship is and should remain an extraordinary honor not lightly conferred nor frequently granted;

Whereas the late Dr. Andrei Dmitrievich Sakharov abandoned a privileged and elevated career as a physicist in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to protest the threat to humankind posed by the testing and build-up

of nuclear arms, and led the effort in his country for international peace and human rights;

Whereas Dr. Sakharov, a founding member of the Moscow Human Rights Committee, repeatedly spoke out in defense of victims of the Soviet system, and the freedom of association, movement, information, and opinion;

Whereas in 1975 the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Dr. Sakharov for his personal and fearless effort in the cause of peace;

Whereas Dr. Sakharov stated that the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 has “meaning only if [the Helsinki Accords] are observed fully and by all parties. No country should evade a discussion on its own domestic problems [n]or should a country ignore violations in other participating states. The whole point of the Helsinki Accords is mutual monitoring, not mutual evasion of difficult problems.”;

Whereas for his human rights activity, and specifically for protesting the Soviet invasion into Afghanistan, Dr. Sakharov was sent on January 22, 1980, into internal exile in the closed city of Gorky;

Whereas at the direction of the Congress, President Ronald Reagan designated May 21, 1983, as “National Andrei Sakharov Day” and praised Dr. Sakharov’s tireless and courageous efforts on behalf of international peace and on behalf of human freedoms for the peoples of the Soviet Union; and

Whereas upon his release from internal exile on December 16, 1986, by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Dr. Sakharov continued the fight for human rights in the Soviet Union, was elected to the Congress of People’s Deputies, and remained a vigorous advocate for individual

human rights until the time of his death in 1989: Now,
therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
- 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 That Andrei Dmitrievich Sakharov is posthumously pro-
- 4 claimed to be an honorary citizen of the United States.

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